



Hands on Habitat

Commonwealth of Virginia

What Are the Problems?

- **Coastal wetlands** Since the 1950s, we have lost or altered 30% of Virginia's coastal wetlands due to development, sea level rise, impoundments, and dredging.
- **Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) beds** Current acreage is only 10% of the historic coverage in Chesapeake Bay.
- **Native oyster population** Only 1% remain due to the impacts of disease, harvesting, and eutrophication (an excess of nutrients that favors algae and plants over wildlife).

Background

Thousands of acres of estuarine and coastal bays, rivers, and streams can be found throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. These diverse and productive habitats support finfish, shellfish, and other wildlife. NOAA and other organizations continue to make small gains in restoring water quality and habitat despite growing development pressures throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

What We Do

- Restore tidal wetlands and plant SAV beds
- Construct and restore oyster habitat
- Create living shorelines (alternatives to hard shorelines)
- Remove dams and other in-stream barriers
- Stabilize riparian habitat
- Control invasive plant and animal species
- Educate communities about the value of habitat and restoration

How We Do It

NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) achieves science-based habitat restoration through community involvement and stewardship. We build powerful partnerships among Virginia's public, private, and non-profit organizations. Our projects continually demonstrate the effectiveness and benefits of



locally based habitat conservation throughout Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's coastal areas.

Our Accomplishments

Since 1997, we have:

- Awarded more than \$1.9 million and leveraged more than \$3.1 million
- Managed \$5 million in Congressionally directed funds
- Funded 109 projects
- Completed 86 projects
- Restored more than 650 acres of habitat
- Opened more than 35 stream miles for fish passage
- Engaged roughly 4,000 volunteers for 24,000 service hours through partnered activities

Our Partners

NOAA works with 77 local, private, and public partners in Virginia, including the James River Association, The Nature Conservancy, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Virginia Zoological Society, Virginia Organizing Project, and Elizabeth River Project.

Our Focus

Manage coastal zone impacts to hold the line against water quality and habitat degradation in Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries

Contact

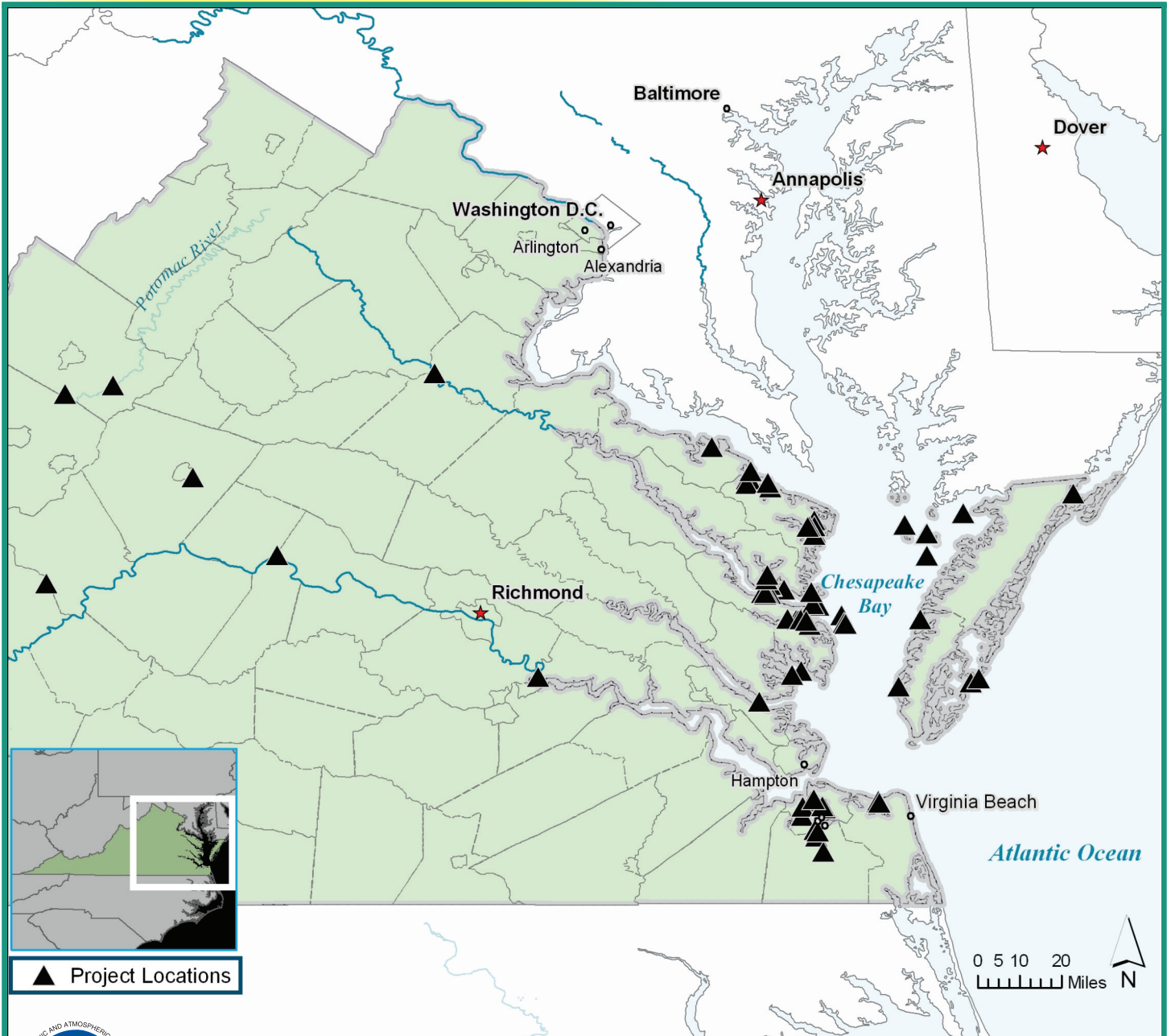
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NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP)

Commonwealth of Virginia



SELECT COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROJECTS:

**Back Creek Eelgrass
Restoration, Hampton**

**Chesapeake Bay Beaver
Dam Assessment,
Tappahannock**

**Cobb Island Bay SAV
Restoration, Virginia Beach**

**Elizabeth River Oyster Reef
Restoration, Portsmouth**

**Hermitage Foundation
Living Shoreline, Norfolk**

**Lafayette River Oyster
Reef Restoration, Norfolk**

**Langley Oyster
Restoration, Hampton**

**Shirley Plantation SAV
Restoration, Charles City**

**Tye River Dam Removal,
Nelson County**

**Virginia Eastern Shore SAV
Restoration, Wachapreague**

**Woolen Mills Dam Removal
Analysis, Charlottesville**